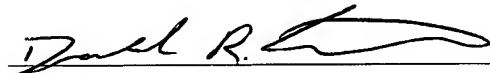


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correct the improper multiple dependencies in order to place them in better condition for examination. The foregoing amendments being carried out with respect to the claims set forth in the International Preliminary Examination Report dated November 29, 2001. Additional, claims 26-37 have been added and correspond to claims 28-39 of the originally filed International Application.

Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE CLAIMS:****PLEASE AMEND THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS:****PLEASE AMEND THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19 and 22-25 from the Amended Preliminary Examination Report Claims)**

5. (AMENDED) A surgical device (1) as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the trocar (5) incorporates guard means for preventing injury to the surgeon.

6. (AMENDED) A surgical device (1) as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the cannula (6) incorporates means (15) for releaseably attaching the cannula to an interior (3) of the body cavity.

9. (AMENDED) A surgical device (1) as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the cannula (6) incorporates a valve to prevent loss of gas from the body cavity when the cannula is in position.

10. (AMENDED) A surgical device as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the fixing means incorporates an anchor ring (7) formed for releasable engagement with a proximal end of the cannula (6) extending from the body when the cannula (6) is in position in the body cavity.

13. (AMENDED) A surgical device as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, incorporating an external seal (901) and an internal valve (902), the seal (901) and valve (902) being mounted about opposing ends of the cannula (6)

17. **(AMENDED)** A surgical device as claimed in [any of claims 13 to 16] claim 13, wherein the seal housing (901) defines an extended entry port (904).

19. **(AMENDED)** A surgical device as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein the cannula (6) incorporates an insufflation port (910).

22. **(AMENDED)** A surgical device as claimed in [any of claims 11 to 21] claim 11, wherein the anchor ring (7) incorporates cushion means to prevent trauma to the body cavity wall and ensure a gas tight seal.

23. **(AMENDED)** A surgical device as claimed in [any of claims 11 to 22] claim 11, wherein the distal ring (15) incorporates cushion means to prevent trauma to the body cavity wall and ensures a gas tight seal.

24. **(AMENDED)** A surgical device as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, incorporating a detachable security retainer formed for engagement with a surgeon's hand or instrument to prevent loss of the device in the cavity prior to being fixed in position on a patient.

25. **(AMENDED)** A surgical device as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1, incorporating an adjustable pressure release valve.

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS 26-37:

26. **(NEW)** A method for insertion of a surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type where a body cavity is inflated to be accessible to a surgeon through an access port surrounding an incision in a patient's body, the device being formed to allow insertion of medical equipment and comprising: -

a cannula defining a conduit into the body cavity;

a trocar carried on the cannula and formed for piercing or cutting tissue to position the cannula; and

fixing means for removably securing the cannula in position on the patient during surgery,

the method comprising the steps of inserting the trocar into the body cavity through the access port, cutting or piercing tissue outwardly from within the body cavity using the trocar out to an operating site and inserting a cannula in the incision made using the trocar.

27. (NEW) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type where a body cavity is inflated to be accessible to a surgeon through an access port surrounding an incision in a patients body, the device being formed to allow insertion of medical equipment and comprising, a cannula defining a conduit into or out of the body cavity and fixing means for removably securing the cannula in position on the patient during surgery, the fixing means in turn having at least one seal, at one seal being movable along or about a longitudinal axis of the cannula to secure the device in position.

28. (NEW) A surgical device as claimed in claim 27, in which the fixing means is provided by:

an inner seal having an upwardly extending conduit carried on an internal mounting ring; and

an external seal having a downwardly extending conduit carried on an external mounting ring, the upwardly and downwardly extending conduits being formed for releasable engagement when in position on a patient to define the cannula.

29. (NEW) A surgical device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the conduits are formed for slidable interengagement.

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30. **(NEW)** A surgical device as claimed in claim 27 or 28, in which the conduits incorporate a ratchet retainer.
31. **(NEW)** A surgical device as claimed in claim 30, wherein each conduit is deformable to facilitate removal by disengaging the ratchet retainer.
32. **(NEW)** A surgical device as claimed in [any of claims 30 to 33] claim 28, wherein the, each mounting ring has an associated pressure absorption and seal enhancement means.
33. **(NEW)** A surgical device as claimed in [any of claims 30 to 34] claim 28, wherein the cannula incorporates a valve.
34. **(NEW)** A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery of the type where a body cavity is inflated to be accessible to a surgeon through an access port surrounding an incision in a patients body, the device being formed to allow insertion of medical equipment and comprising, a cannula defining a conduit into or out of the body cavity and fixing means for removably securing the cannula in position on the patient during surgery provided by an external and an internal mounting ring, one or both rings being pivotally movable about a longitudinal axis of the cannula.
35. **(NEW)** A surgical device as claimed in claim 36, in which the cannula is collapsible under pressure from one or both mounting rings to secure the cannula in position.
36. **(NEW)** A surgical device as claimed in claim 35, in which the cannula is provided by a section of pleated tubing carried on the device.

37. (NEW) A surgical device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the external mounting ring defines an entry funnel having an oversize entry aperture for receiving and facilitating insertion of a piece of medical equipment.

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